

FINAL REPORT
Support for Society for Marine Mammalogy 2015 Biennial Conference

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Award Number: N000141512374
<http://www.marinemammalscience.org/conference>

LONG-TERM GOALS

Improve the field of marine mammal science globally.

OBJECTIVES

This proposal was for support for the biennial conference of the Society for Marine Mammalogy, which addressed the long term goal above by:

- Facilitating exchange of information amongst internationally recognized experts by delivery of plenary talks from world leaders followed by smaller break-out group discussions.
- Training scientists from countries with limited research capacity by enabling their attendance at workshops, talks and poster sessions.
- Production of online documents from workshop and conference proceedings.
- Facilitating development of international partnerships through introductions and discussion throughout the workshop.

APPROACH

The conference supported 2,500 delegates from all over the world, with financial support for students and scientists from developing countries. It was held in San Francisco at the Hilton Union Square from December 12-18 2015.

WORK COMPLETED

The scientific program was structured from the 1,526 abstracts submitted. The conference included key-note lectures and oral presentations presented in five concurrent sessions, 800 poster presentations and workshops on hot topics in marine mammal science.

RESULTS

1,526 scientific presentations were made to 2,200 delegates from all over the world. All abstracts of presentations are available at www.marinemammalscience.org, and on usb ports distributed to all conference attendees. The conference achieved its goal by reviewing cutting edge science on health of marine mammals, their ecology and the factors influencing the health of their ecosystems. Workshops, invited plenary talks, and 1,500 oral and poster presentations were selected from submitted abstracts and presented in five concurrent sessions from December 14-18 2015. 2,500 scientists attended the conference. Daily plenary sessions were designed to foster broad conversation amongst all of the SMM participants about current issues in marine mammal science. These included:

- Dr. Peter Tyack (University of St. Andrews, Scotland) on Future Directions in Marine Mammal Science
- Drs. Jennifer Francis (Rutgers University) and Sue Moore (Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, NOAA) on Climate Change
- Drs. Beth Shapiro (University of California Santa Cruz) and Karina Acevedo-Whitehouse (Autonomous University of Queretaro, Mexico) on Emerging Novel Technologies
- Drs. Claudio Campagna (Wildlife Conservation Society) and Michael Orbach (Duke University) on Human Dimensions
- Dr. Nancy Baron (COMPASS) moderated a panel discussion between prominent scientists and international journalists on Communicating Science

Speakers:

- Jane Lubchenco – Distinguished Professor of Zoology and Valley Professor of Marine Biology, Oregon State University (confirmed)
- Charles Littnan, NMFS
- Nick Gales – Australian Antarctic Chief Scientist, President of the Society for Marine Mammalogy (confirmed)
- Marcia McNutt – Editor in Chief, Science
- David Malakoff – editor, Science
- Ken Weiss, freelance Pulitzer prize winning journalist

IMPACT/APPLICATIONS

Enhanced capacity for science globally.

RELATED PROJECTS

None